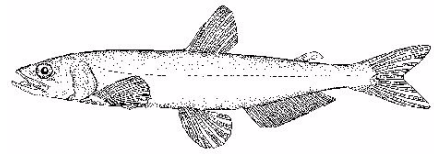

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Ketchikan Area Office
2030 Sea Level Drive #205
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
Date: February 8, 2012
Time: 3:30 p.m.

2012 SOUTHEAST ALASKA EULACHON FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Ketchikan. . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today the following concerning eulachon (*Thaleichthys pacificus*) fisheries and eulachon closures for the 2012 season:

District 1: will be closed to commercial, personal use and subsistence eulachon fishing in all waters. This includes the Unuk, Klahini, and Chickamin Rivers, and all drainages on Revillagigedo Island and those drainages that flow into Behm Canal including those in Smeaton Arm;

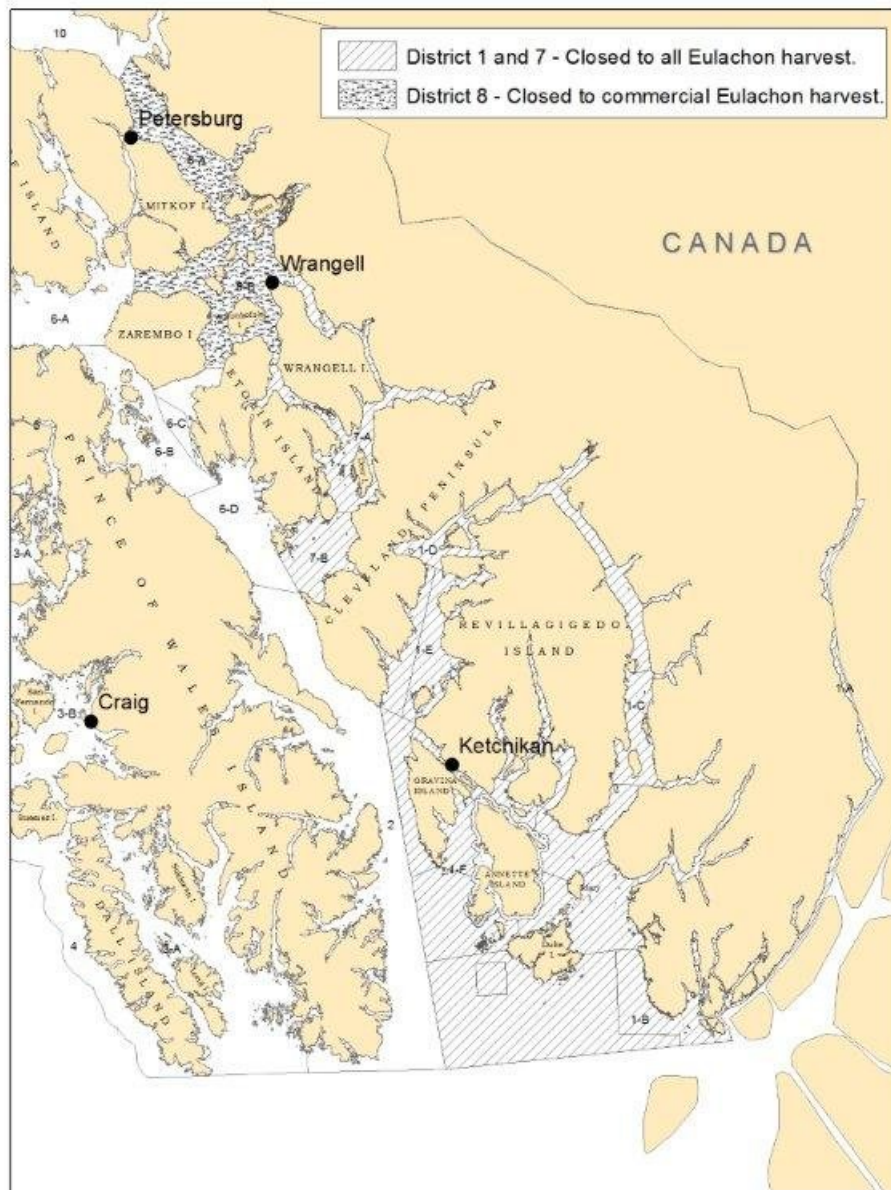
Stikine River: will be closed to commercial eulachon fishing. The subsistence fishery will be open under state regulations to all residents of the State of Alaska;

Bradfield Canal: will be closed to commercial and subsistence eulachon fishing.

Many eulachon spawning runs throughout the Pacific coast, including Southeast Alaska, have had marked declines in recent years. Eulachon returned to several rivers in southern southeast Alaska in 2011 for the first time in recent years. Last year was the first good return to the Unuk River since 2004. Stock status information for each of the above areas is limited and the department feels a conservative approach is necessary for sustaining the health of these stocks.

The United States Forest Service, which manages Federal waters in southeast Alaska, is also closing drainages that flow into District 1 to the subsistence harvest of eulachon smelt this year.

The emergency order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1H0212.



News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>

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